(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार क्या आवश्यक कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी) : (क) सरकारी नीति के अनुसार देश के गांवों और शहरी स्लम बस्तियों में निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधाएं उप केन्द्रों, प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों, ग्रामीण परिवार कल्याण केन्द्रों, शहरी परिवार कल्याण केन्द्रों, प्रसवोत्तर केन्द्रों और शहरी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों के तंत्र के जरिए प्रदान की जाती है। इन केन्द्रों की स्थापना की जाती है और अनुमोदित मानदंडों के आधार पर उनका विस्तार किया जाता है।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार के अस्पतालों में परीक्षण जल्द कराने के लिए ओकिल्पूर्ण शुल्क लेना बंद कर दिया है। गरीब और निर्धन मरीजों के मामले में झुकाव न लेने हेतु उपयुक्त प्रावधान किए गए हैं। गरीब मरीज मुफ्त इलाज कराने के लिए हाल ही में गठित राष्ट्रीय बीमारी सहायता निधि से भी सहायता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

Super-speciality AIDS Hospital

2522 SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to start super-speciality AIDS hospitals in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) whether any place has been identified for the said purpose in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) All HIV infected patients AIDS cases are being treated in general hospitals all over the country like other patients without any discrimination and by adopting universal bio-safety precautions.

Death of tribal children in Melghat forest region

2523. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM.
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that special attention is required to be given to Melghat forest region of Amravati district of Maharashtra, where more than 4500 tribal children have died due to malnutrition and disease;

(b) if so, what is the detailed plan of Government to prevent the space of deaths which is still continuing;

(c) what is the mechanism to monitor this; and

(d) what is the provision of money for this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government is aware of the problem of death of tribal children in Melghat forest region of Dharni and Chikaldhara tehsil of Amravati District. According to the State Government of Maharashtra 1289 children below the age of 6 years died during the last three years. Premature birth associated with various grade of malnutrition affects the immune system and such children are predisposed to contract infectious diseases resulting in high mortality.

(b) The State Government has reported that specific measures have been taken in Melghat region which include establishment of office of Additional

trict Health Officer at Dharni, appointment of honorary Doctors, establishment of Paediatric ICU in Dharni and Chikaldhara Community Health Centres, appointment of honorary Paediatricians, filling up of vacant posts, appointment of Para Volunteers in Hamlets, training of Dais and Health education measures. In addition, budget for medicines and POL has been increased.

Under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, interventions for effective immunisation, control of Diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory tract infections, prophylaxis against Vitamin 'A' and iron deficiency are being implemented.

(c) A Central Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Welfare) has been constituted to monitor and review preventive measures taken to check death of children due to malnutrition.

The establishment of the health infrastructure, health manpower, stocking of medicines the implementation of the MCH and immunization programme are also monitored at the Central level.

The State Government has been asked to prepare a detailed action plan and periodically review the preventive measures taken.

The State Government has sanctioned separate post of Project Officer in Melghat forest region with Headquarters at Dharni for monitoring various preventive measures.

(d) Under child Survival & Safe Motherhood Programme, provision of assistance of Rs 166.50 lakh has been made for the State of Maharashtra for purchase of vaccines, drugs cold chain equipments etc during 1997-98.

An amount of Rs 50.96 lakh has been released for the Integrated Child Development Services Project as the first instalment, to the State of Maharashtra during 1997-98.

The State Govt of Maharashtra has sanctioned Rs 125.85 lakh for implementation of special measures in addition to regular budget during 1997-98.

Recognition of BDS degrees of universities in Maharashtra

2524. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Question 194 and 207 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government issue a Gazette Notification publishing recognition of MBBS/BDS degrees, before a State Medical Council/ Dental Council can undertake the process of registration;

(b) if so, on which date, the Dental Council of India recommended to recognise BDS degrees of Pune, Amaravati and Shivaji/Kohlapur Universities;

(c) the reasons for delay in issuing the notification despite the recommendation of the Dental Council; and

(d) by when Government are likely to issue the said Gazette Notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The dates when Dental Council of India recommendations were received:

Sl. No	Name of the University	Date
1.	Pune Universiti	21-1-97
2.	Amaravati University	10-5-97
3	Shivaji University	14-2-96

But the recommendations of the Council were not complete and on examination of the inspections reports and recommendations of the Council certain deficiencies were noticed and the clarifications/ details were called for from the Council. The matter is under process and the Gazette notification will be issued after the removal of deficiencies and also satisfying the laid down standards as per the provisions of the Dentists Act.